

BOOK REVIEW

Die miocäne Mollusken fauna von Miste-Winterswijk N.L. (Hemmoor). (The miocene molluscan fauna from Miste-Winterswijk, Netherlands) by Fritz Nordsieck, 1972, VI, 188 pp., 3 text fig., 9 tables and 350 plates (line drawings). Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart (ISBN 3-437-20107-7) Price, DM118, Aust. \$29.50 approximately.

In this work, Dr. Fritz Nordsieck, author of three books on the living marine mollusca of Europe, describes and illustrates 337 fossil molluscs from the Middle-Miocene Hemmoor Stage of Miste-Winterswijk in the east of Holland, close to the German border. An introductory chapter dealing with the significance of the fauna for palaeotemperature determination, stratigraphic correlation and palaeogeography, is based on the work of Anderson, Janssen and Sorgenfrei, who have studied in great detail, similar faunas from Germany and Denmark.

Then follows the main body of the work which consists of brief descriptions of 86 bivalves, including one new subgenus and nine new species or sub-species; eight scaphopods, and 243 gastropods, including two new genera, two new subgenera and 31 new species or subspecies. Several new forms are also described, despite the fact that they are not recognised by the Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The new genera and subgenera are proposed in footnotes with a minimum of description and comparison, and in one case the genus is invalid, as there is no diagnosis whatsoever. Others also may not comply with the provisions of the Code, as there appears to be no proper differential diagnosis. None of the species descriptions are accompanied by even a brief synonymy, nor are measurements of types quoted nor types properly designated and their repositories and registered numbers cited. Many of the new species and sub-species are based on one or two specimens. Faults such as these are not to be expected in a modern taxonomic work, and if the book is merely aimed at amateur fossil collectors and malacologists, then this kind of book is no place for the erection of new taxa. The price of the book seems way beyond its value and will place it beyond the reach of most palaeontologists.

T.A.D.

NOTICE

Research on an index patterned after C. D. Sherborn's **INDEX ANIMALIUM** is underway at the National Museum of National History, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A. The coverage is Mollusca only and plans are to include original references to publications including illustrations. The period of chronological coverage begins in 1850, where Sherborn ended, and continues through 1870 to provide an overlap with the **ZOOLOGICAL RECORD**.

Persons having knowledge of or access to obscure pertinent references are invited to correspond with the compiler, Florence A. Ruhoff, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Mollusks.